

# Away with the pixars



Bright fun: Carl, Dug the dog and stowaway Russell find themselves getting carried away

Animated Up is the stuff of grand adventure, although a few scary scenes might dent its appeal to children, writes **Colin Newton**

HAVING gone to the ocean depths for the hugely popular *Finding Nemo*, the good people at Pixar Animation Studios have decided the only way is up.

And they've digitally created 20,622 helium-filled balloons to do just that.

The film begins with a young boy named Carl, who meets, befriends, grows up with, falls in love with and marries a young girl named Ellie.

The happy couple are big fans of renowned adventurer Charles Muntz, and dream of one day living in a

**Up**  
Director Pete Docter  
(PG) 101 minutes, US  
★★★ 1/2

house beside Paradise Falls, a remote cliff he discovered in South America.

Sadly – and yes, there is a “sadly” in this Disney film – Ellie dies. It’s a reminder not to waste life’s precious moments.

And as for what happens next, well, that’s surely a reminder that

you’re never too old to follow your dreams.

With a newfound sense of adventure, the now elderly Carl ties helium-filled balloons to his house and off he goes. Up, up and away. House and all.

It’s a visually delightful scene, and gives a whole new meaning to “moving house”.

Shortly after take-off, however, Carl learns he isn’t alone on his journey. Russell, a young Asian-American wilderness explorer, has inadvertently become a stow-away.

Not that Carl is happy to have the company. “Do you want to play a

game?” he asks the youngster.

“It’s called See Who Can Go The Longest Without Saying Anything.” “Cool!” is the reply. “My mum loves that game!”

Up, directed by Pete Docter (*Monsters, Inc.*) and showing in regular and 3D, will be another box-office smash for Pixar. It is bright, fun, colourful and a grand adventure.

That said, several scenes seem a little scary for young children, which is reflected in the film’s PG rating, and it lacks

that something to captivate adults. Perhaps my favourite part of the film-going experience was the six-minute Pixar short *Partly Cloudy* that precedes the main feature. It is entertaining and informative.

After all, everyone knows that storks deliver babies, right? But where do the storks get the babies from? Forget 1980s sex education videos, this short answers the lot.

It also enlightens us as to why it rains and thunders. Brilliant. Now if only I knew why the sky was blue...

## \* HIGHS & LOWS

- + Beautifully animated
- Plods along at times

## DON'T BE THE LAST BASTERD TO SEE IT...

★★★★★  
“GRIPPING... THE BASTERD'S DONE IT AGAIN!”  
ANDREW URBAN - URBANCINEFILE

★★★★★  
“TARANTINO COMES UP WITH THE GOODS - IT'S A WINNER!”  
MARGARET POMERANTZ - AT THE MOVIES

★★★★★  
“IRREVERENT, IRRATIONAL & IRRESISTIBLY ENTERTAINING”  
LEIGH PAATSCH - HERALD SUN

★★★★★  
“A WAR MOVIE LIKE NONE YOU'VE EVER SEEN”  
TOM RYAN - THE AGE

★★★★★  
DAVID STRATTON - AT THE MOVIES

★★★★★  
ZOO MAGAZINE

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**INGLORIOUS BASTERDS**  
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MA 15+ Strong Violence  
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ONLY AT THE MOVIES NOW SHOWING

## The perfect Father's Day flick

### Charlie and Boots

Director Dean Murphy  
(M) 101 minutes, Australia  
★★★ 1/2

IF YOU plan to treat your father to a movie today, then *Charlie and Boots* should top your list.

Not that it's the greatest film out at the moment, but the father-and-son Aussie comedy-drama is good value and somehow seems more appropriate than, say, *Fighting, My Life In Ruins*, *Orphan* or *The Soloist*.

Shane Jacobson (Kenny) plays “Boots”, a likeable lad who takes his dad Charlie (Paul Hogan) on a road trip from Victoria to go fishing at Cape York.

Yes, pairing Aussie icons Crocodile Dundee and “waste manager” Kenny together is fraught with danger – but, good news, *Charlie and Boots* is not a crock of dung.

Some scenes are very funny. I laughed; the woman beside me snorted and wiped tears from her eyes.

Which brings me to the catalyst for the road trip. Wife and mother Gracie has died, and Boots decides a drive in the Kingswood is just the tonic for his despondent dad.

Charlie, on the other hand, is more interested in the tonic served with gin. It's his wallowing in a

darkened and dirtied house that impels Boots to take action.

And so the pair hits the wide, open road – passing some of the most beautiful landscapes in Australia – Boots optimistic and bright, Charlie reluctant and gloomy.

Indeed, Charlie's grumpy old man routine is worth a few laughs. His cheeky behaviour even more so. What can I say; boys will be boys, regardless of their age.

Hogan, who turns 70 next month, has a knack for comedy – a trait no doubt gained over the years in tandem with the scores of laughter lines that have clearly escaped the wrath of his cosmetic surgeon.

Adding a youthful exuberance to the film is beautiful hitchhiker Jess (Morgan Griffin), whom our road-

trippers inadvertently pick up (my favourite scene).

Griffin is best known for her role as Charlie in *The Sleepover Club*, and is a breath of fresh air here as charming, wannabe musician Jess.

All in all, director Dean Murphy (*Strange Bedfellows*) has done a decent effort and, as is the case with road trips – at least, road-trip movies – the journey far outweighs the destination.

Colin Newton

## \* HIGHS & LOWS

- + Father's Day special
- Comedy or drama?



Hoges and Kenny: Paul Hogan (left) and Shane Jacobson